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On the Ropes



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On the cover: Chuck Arnold slithers on the ropes during the Ranger Challenge Saturday. For more see pages 6,7. Photo by Dave Weaver

UNO survey respondents split on abortion issue

By ELIZABETH OMMACHEN

More than one-half of UNO students, faculty and staff who responded to last week's *Gateway* survey regarding abortion are pro-life.

Although 41 percent of respondents indicated they favor abortion, 57 percent consider abortion murder.

"I was adopted at age 5 months," one faculty/staff respondent wrote. "My natural mother was 17 and I thank her for allowing me to live."

Others indicated they regard birth control as an alternative to abortion.

"If pro-lifers would get off their high horse about birth control, abortions would go down," one student wrote.

For some, the issue hits close to home, raising both moral and legal concerns.

"I was pregnant and unmarried three years ago and thankful to have a choice between abortion and having the baby," read another response. "I chose to have the baby, which was right for me. But, abortion is right for some people, too. The government should keep its nose out of our quality-of-life decisions."

However, respondents were split on the issue of government funding of abortions in some cases.

Fifty percent of those surveyed indicated the government should fund abortions in rape and incest cases.

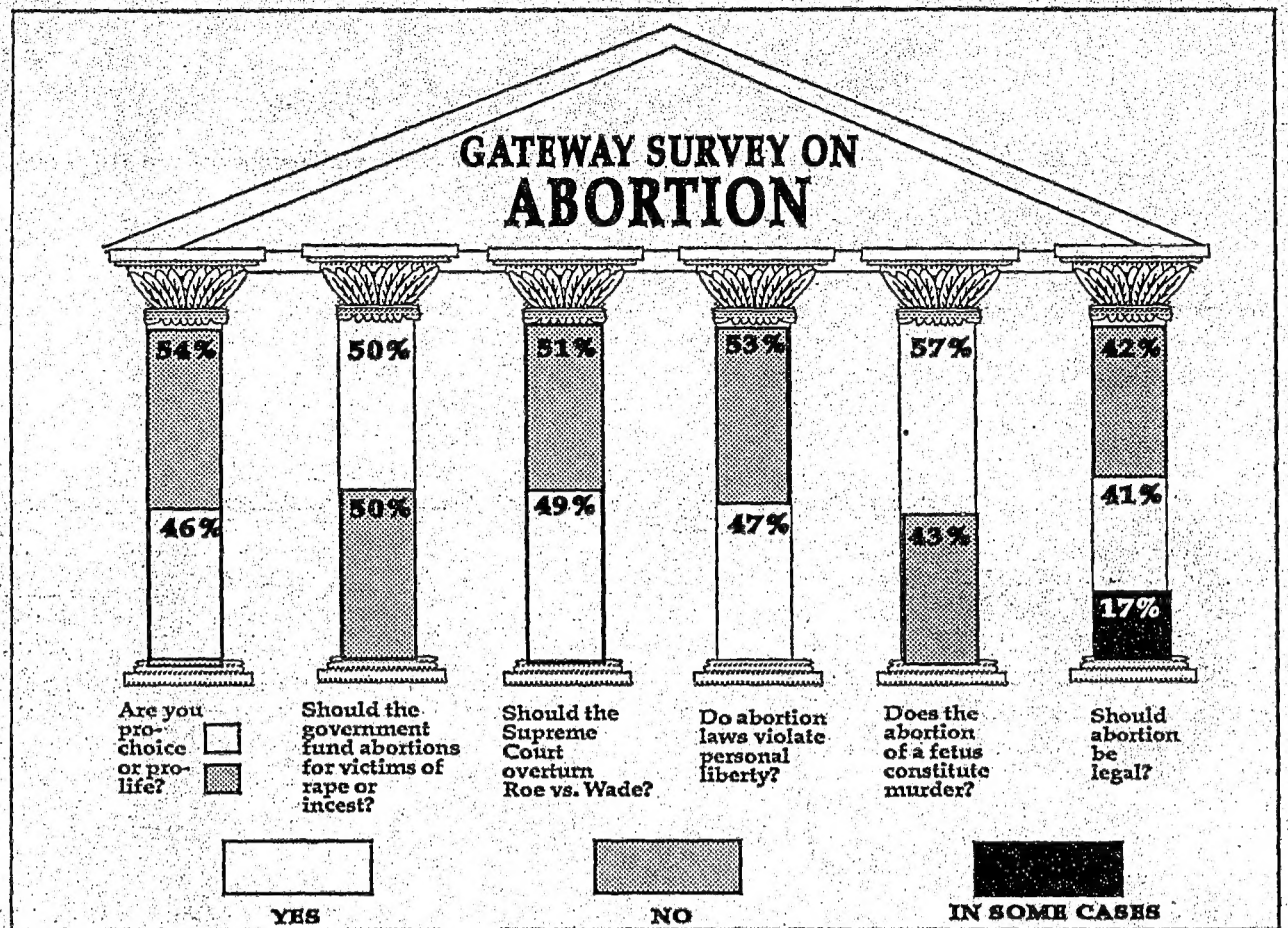
In addition to funding, the government also determines the legality of abortions. Some respondents were split in making this distinction.

Forty-one percent of respondents indicated abortion should remain legal, while 42 percent feel it should be illegal. Seventeen percent indicated it should be legal only in some cases.

Some respondents were concerned with other abortion-related issues, such as the use of aborted fetuses in experimentation.

Still others equated sexual freedom with the freedom to choose abortion.

"Since it is a personal choice to have sex, it should be a



personal choice to deal with the results," one student wrote.

Freedom and the individual's rights are frequently debated in regards to abortion.

The survey showed both pro-choice and pro-life advocates favor rights.

"The rights of the unborn are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," wrote one student.

However, some respondents disagreed, advocating the rights of the mother over those of the unborn.

Forty-seven percent of those surveyed indicated anti-abortion laws violate the rights of women, while 51 percent said they think the Supreme Court should overturn its Roe vs. Wade decision.

The *Gateway* received 102 abortion survey responses.

New student senators mock it up

By PATRICK RUNGE

Practice makes perfect.

Newly-elected student senators were introduced to the senate and oriented with its procedures Thursday.

The purpose of the informal, non-business meeting was to introduce the new senators to the senate officers, explain the role of the officers and inform them of the responsibilities of the seat.

After an introduction to parliamentary procedure, a mock debate was staged to acquaint the new senators with deliberation and discussion on the senate floor.

A mock resolution was introduced calling for the dedication of a pillar in the Student Center to UNO Chancellor Del Weber.

After some discussion, Weber was honored as a "powerful stud-muffin on campus." The senate then amended the resolution to place Weber's name on the pillar in red and black spray paint. The resolution passed unanimously.

After a brief introduction of the members present, Teresa Houser explained her position as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

"I oversee the four Student Government agencies," Houser said. Those agencies are the Women's Resource Center (WRC), the International Student Services (ISS), the United Minority Services (UMS) and the Disabled Students Agency (DSA).

"Those four agencies receive part of student fees and were created by Student Government," Houser said.

As CAO, Houser said she manages the Student Government office, the office budget and helps non-elected students who want to get involved with Student Government.

Houser then discussed the Student Legal Assistance Service (SLAS) and the Typing Center, two services Student Government provides for the student body.

"(In the SLAS) we have different lawyers that students can go to if they have a question about legality or things of that nature, free of cost," Houser said.

Third time is a charm

Let the debates begin, again.

Chad Brown and Kelli Sears will face each other today in the third student president/regent debate this semester, in the Student Center Ballroom.

Sears finished first and Brown second, ahead of incumbent President/Regent Paula Effle in the student elections Oct. 25-26.

Chris McClenny, director of Student Government's Council for Community and Legislative Relations (CCLR), said Monday afternoon he was unsure of when the debate would be held, although the format would be different from the first two debates.

He said the three panelist will ask each candidate two questions. Each candidate will have two minutes to respond with one and one-half minutes of rebuttal time.

McClenny said panelist for the debate will be:

●Terri Wright, a senior who is involved in new student orientation and the outbound ambassador program.

●Kerry Ecklbe, a graduate student and president of Eta Sigma Gamma.

●A yet to be decided representative from the *Gateway*.

McClenny said the debate will allow students to make an informed decision on election day, tentatively scheduled for Nov. 15.

"This is their (the students) chance to ask questions of the candidates, but their chance to act is election day," he said.

"The first one (debate) was really a trial run," he said. "The second one went a lot better - we had about 15 audience questions afterwards."

"It was really pretty crowded and a couple people were in the back, not due to lack of seating but just people passing through and stopping to watch."

The Typing Center has typewriters available for student use, she said.

According to Houser, nominees for CAO are recommended to the Student Senate by the speaker of the senate. She said the senate selects one person from those nominees to fill the position. The senate may also vote to remove the CAO at any time, Houser said.

Recording Secretary Erica Johnson then explained the duties of her position.

"I take all the minutes of the Student Government meetings, also the Executive Committee meetings and the SABC (Student Activities Budget Commission) meetings," Johnson said.

Johnson said she is also responsible for keeping the senator's attendance records.

After three unexcused absences from Student Senate meetings, she said, the senator is brought before the full senate. She said the senate will then vote to possibly remove that

senator from office.

Johnson said two absences from committee meetings equal one senate meeting absence for the purpose of attendance rules.

Johnson then discussed the Student Senate's procedure for amendments. By introducing an amendment, the senator can alter the resolution "if it's not quite the way you want it to be," she said.

According to Johnson, amendments must be introduced before any debate on a resolution begins. A written copy of the proposed amendment must also be submitted to the recording secretary.

Executive Treasurer Cheryl Carter then explained the responsibilities of her position to the new senators.

"The Student Activities Budget Commission is a committee made up of faculty, staff, and students," Carter said. "They decide where the Fund A portion of the University Program

and Facilities Fees (UPFF) funds go."

According to Carter, the Fund A consists of \$7.50 paid by each student each semester. She said the money is used for such things as the Gateway, Student Programming Organization (SPO), and Student Government.

"Out of the portion (of Fund A) Student Government gets, we fund Student Legal Assistance program and the Typing Center," Carter said. She said some of the money also funds the Council for Community and Legislative Relations (CCLR) and the Student Government agencies.

CCLR director Chris McClenny then explained the functions of his office.

"We try to have contact with all the organizations around campus," McClenny said. "We do that through a number of letters we send them, through Student Organization Summits, and through our Student Government newsletter, the *Forum*."

McClenny said through strong student support, CCLR can effectively lobby the Nebraska Legislature on issues relating to UNO.

Houser then explained the role of the student president/regent.

"The president/regent is the student body president and sits as a student on the Board of Regents," she said. "The president/regent does not have an official vote on the Board of Regents, but they do take a stand on issues."

Houser said the president/regent also sits on various committees around the university, such as the Facilities Planning Committee.

The president/regent also has veto power over resolutions the Student Senate passes, Houser said.

Mary Reynolds explained her role as Student Senate Speaker. She said it is her responsibility as speaker to chair each senate meeting.

In addition to chairing the Rules and Executive Committee, Reynolds said she is also responsible for forming meeting agendas and ensuring that senators have posted office hours.

Buda and the Mavs left out in football media blitz

At least one University of Nebraska football team managed to beat some form of buffalo Saturday.

The UNO Mavericks, like their Lincoln counterparts, were picked as gridiron underdogs, but the Mavs didn't listen to the latest line.

In case you haven't seen the sports page yet, the Mavericks dominated Al Caniglia Field Saturday in a 27-7 victory over the defending NCAA Division II champs, the North Dakota State Bison.

After the game, UNO Coach Sandy Buda had a few choice words for the local television media.

"They dumped us," he said. He thanked the *Gateway* and the *Omaha World-Herald* for the coverage, but "the TV people can go to hell."

Good job, Sandy.

For 12 seasons he's been working with a team which gets a fraction of the media attention and the dollars lavishly dumped on the Huskers.

He's passed Al Caniglia's victory record. He's been a North Central Conference head coach longer than any of his peers. And he just beat NCC powerhouse North Dakota State by their largest winning margin of the year. He's justified in complaining about the lack of televi-

Staff EDITORIAL

sion coverage for the Mavs.

Actually, Buda should have complained about the lack of attention from UNO's student body.

For the Mavs' last home game of the season, less than one-third of the seats (4,100 est.) were filled. They should have been packed for a game pitting the Mavs against a team that has won more games in the last 10 years than Division I giants Oklahoma, Miami, and yes, Nebraska.

It was the last time fans could see seniors, Jim Stenger, Bob Gordon, Orville Townsend, Todd Freeman, Jim Olafson, Todd Culp, Dave Ashman, Mark Kinnach, Scott Mars and Dan Williams, in Maverick uniforms at home.

If the Mavs received a little piece of the football-hype pie, more people probably would have shown up for one of Saturday's biggest upsets.

There wasn't a pre-game show. Mav players didn't get to say "high mom" in front of the camera. And Sandy Buda didn't get to answer any stupid post-game questions in front of the camera (We took care of the stupid question department, thank you.).

Unfortunately, Husker fever (fervor?) often overpowers Maverick mania. But the local media could have helped stem the tide.

Good job, Sandy. Good luck on a potential 7-4 season. And count on the *Gateway* for real Maverick coverage.

Gateway

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WITH A little help from COACH BUDA, T.V. NEWS gets the story.

'Life in Hell' controversy gets hotter

To the Editor:

In the article in the Nov. 3 issue of the *Gateway* ("Ramirez calls cartoon racist"), a reference was made to a letter I submitted which indicated that a *Life in Hell* cartoon was racist. You left out one piece of information. When I submitted the letter, I also delivered a letter from a UNO faculty member which supported the consideration of my position by all people on campus. To date, this letter has not been published.

The two letters were an attempt to open public discussion about racism. By not publishing the letter, readers of the Nov. 3 article did not receive the whole story. Furthermore, by not being made aware of it, your readers, because of your editing practices, are left ignorant of all of the facts regarding the original issue. Your editing practices prove my point: Institutions, including the media and the *Gateway*, serve the status quo. Ignorance perpetuates the oppression of individuals as well as groups of people.

By leaving out part of the story in your attempt to discredit my position, you have, in effect, used the power of the press to your own advantage.

I'm left wondering, "What are your motivations for presenting only selected parts of the facts?"

Roger Ramirez
UNO Student

To the Editor:

I wanted to write a letter in support of the concerns raised by Roger Ramirez in several of his letters to the editor in the *Gateway*.

Roger and I spoke last summer about the cartoon in which a bear was pictured sitting in a room. The caption read: Ken Bear suddenly realizes he is a black bear trapped in a white man's world. I had been uncomfortable with some of the associations implied, but became much more concerned when I read the casual "it ain't no problem" response to Roger's observations by the editor.

Then, this year the *Life in Hell* cartoon had its odd little critter rhyming idiotically many words, one set of which was: I live in the Congo. Again, the cartoon could offend African-Americans, but I was fairly certain the "it ain't no problem" attitude was prevailing.

What had happened, I fear, is a radical dismantling, not only of civil rights programs, but of sensitivities in the white community to what are virtually inevitable eruptions of racism. I say inevitable because as long as the nation is divided historically along lines of color — mainly affluent white on one side of town and marginal-to-poor non-white communities on the other side (Omaha?),

racist relations will be a way of life.

For a time in the '50s and '60s, under the leadership of the African-American, Latino, and Native communities, and now increasingly the Asian community, the dominant Anglo-European communities grew more aware of the historical forces that were giving rise to segregation, poverty, confrontation, and riots. Even with daily national stories of racist attacks and resurgences of white supremacist organizations — Nazis, the Klan and white supremacist skinheads, the response from the white community is: It ain't no problem. And this is a full 20 years after the President's Commission on Civil Disturbances declared the nation was moving relentlessly toward a society divided, by color and economic advantage. The numbing sensibility is particularly distressing when we see it among the young who some time ago were the fertile ground where racism was being confronted.

Therefore, I want to draw attention to what Roger is saying and encourage all of us at UNO to consider seriously to what extent the white community is subject to racist thoughts, feelings, actions and reactions. We are not disconnected from, but are very much a part of our national racist history. Without, at least, awareness of how white behavior affects non-white communities, there can be no change, and the stand-offs will intensify.

Douglas L. Paterson
UNO Professor

LETTERS

To the Editor:

Once in a while our need to maintain a strong guard against racism leads us into the realm of the ludicrous.

Certainly Roger Ramirez's recent complaint about the *Life in Hell* comic strip is a good example of this very situation.

The absurdity of his complaint has nothing to do with the fact that the comic in question is mainly concerned with the existential agony of three ugly rabbits; in an era of constant vigilance we must be prepared to encounter evil in the most unlikely of places.

Comic strips, apparently, are no longer a laughing matter.

In all seriousness, anything that reaches a large number of people, no matter harmless it may seem, should be

regarded with a certain amount of suspicion. We cannot dismiss out of hand the possibility that Ramirez may be right. These rabbits that Matt Groening draws may really be disseminating racist doctrine.

Still ... several things would lead one to doubt it.

A close look at the history of *Life in Hell* will reveal that the single-most recurrent theme of the strip is the way in which mainstream society stifles and abuses the people who have to live with it. That's ALL the people who have to live with it. If Groening wasn't using rabbits to represent human beings, I'm sure we'd be seeing a healthy number of minority-group members in the strip, along with a whole host of bland, middle-class whites. Groening may not be kind to his characters, but he IS open-minded; they all suffer equally.

While Ramirez chose not to explain what specifically bothered him about the strip, I think I can guess.

The rabbit in the strip spent most of the panels putting himself down, and that stated that the only place he'd fit in "would be the Congo."

This is obviously a veiled barb thrown at the people of the Congo, right?

Come on. IT RHYMED. Furthermore, Brazzaville IS the capital of the Congo.

To argue that Groening created this whole scenario simply because it offered him one almost imperceptible chance to offend blacks is ridiculous.

I own four different compilations of the *Life in Hell* strip. If Ramirez wants to contact the *Gateway*, I'll be happy to loan him these books so that he might take a more careful look at the work he has criticized. If he still believes, after the examination, that calling Groening a racist is a fair accusation, I won't argue with him.

Nobody, I hope, is stupid enough to believe that racism is dead, and that we can now rest from the battle against it.

I also hope, however, that those choosing to make themselves warriors for the cause of justice have enough common sense not to waste their time and energy shooting down fundamentally innocent targets. If Ramirez truly wants to fight racism, there are any number of people that he can legitimately attack who deserves his criticisms infinitely more than Groening does.

If I'm wrong ... sooner or later somebody is going to have to do something about this Charles Schulz guy. He's obviously got something against people with round heads.

William T. Carmichael
UNO Student

'After a few days, you will get a surprise'

My wife retrieved a "good luck" chain letter from the mail box the other day. She laughed it off, then started to toss it in our paper recycling box.

I intercepted it. At first I was only curious. But after reading it, I thought it best not to tempt fate.

Don't get me wrong - I'm not really superstitious about these things. Besides, it was addressed to her, not me (Whoever sent it must know she is a high school teacher who can always use a little extra luck).

In order to receive the "good luck" (and avoid some rather nasty luck), she must send copies of the letter to 20 friends within 96 hours. That in itself presents a problem: Whoever heard of a high school teacher with 20 friends?

Even though she refuses to acknowledge that there are "more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in her philosophy," I've gotten used to having her around. What's more, she makes sure my shirt matches my pants before I leave the house in the morning.

So I decided to hedge our bets and intercede on her behalf. But rather than spend about \$7 in copies, postage and envelopes, I decided to use our free American press. If at least twenty people read this, I should be OK.

So, friends, let me pass along the essentials of this "good luck" letter to you.

It begins, "With love, all things are possible."

Then it says, "This paper has been sent to you for good luck."

Very nice sentiments, indeed. But, after that, the only nice thing it says is, "Send no money."

The rest of the letter is filled — not with poems or prayers

—but with thinly veiled threats, and examples of the good and ill fortune of those heeding and those ignoring the task of passing the letter along.

"This is no joke," the letter warns. "Send no money, as fate has no price. Do not keep this letter, it must leave your hands within 96 hours."

"After a few days, you will get a surprise - - this is true!! Even if you are not superstitious."

Another individual "received \$40,000 and lost it because he broke the chain."

— Bill —
WILSON
COLUMNIST

"In 1987, the letter received by a young woman in California was very faded and barely readable. She promised herself that she would retype the letter and send it on. But she put it aside to do later. She was plagued by various problems, including expensive car repairs. The letter did not leave her hands in 96 hours. She finally typed the letter as promised and got a new car!"

I wouldn't mind a new car.

The letter goes on to explain it was written by Saint Anthony De Croop, a missionary from South America, and it

must tour the world.

Earlier, it said the letter had been around the world nine times. I guess it has to just keep going.

I couldn't help but wonder if I was reading the text of Saint Anthony's letter. I mean, he must have had something to say besides, "Good luck. If you don't send out 20 copies of this, you'll be sorry."

Incidentally, I can't find anyone whose ever heard of Saint Anthony De Croop.

Nevertheless, this next example was the clincher for me. The letter said another individual lost his wife 51 days after receiving the letter because he failed to circulate it. "However, before her death, he received \$7,555,000."

It hardly seems fair that my wife, the chain-breaker, should end up with \$7,555,000 while I'm pushing up daisies.

So I wrote this column to absolve her and to protect me. I can't wait to see what good luck comes her/our way.

By the way, I'm afraid the monkey's on your back now. Everyone who reads this must send 20 copies to friends who need good luck. Good luck, and have a nice day.

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HIGH SPEED

UNO cadets test skills at Ranger Challenge

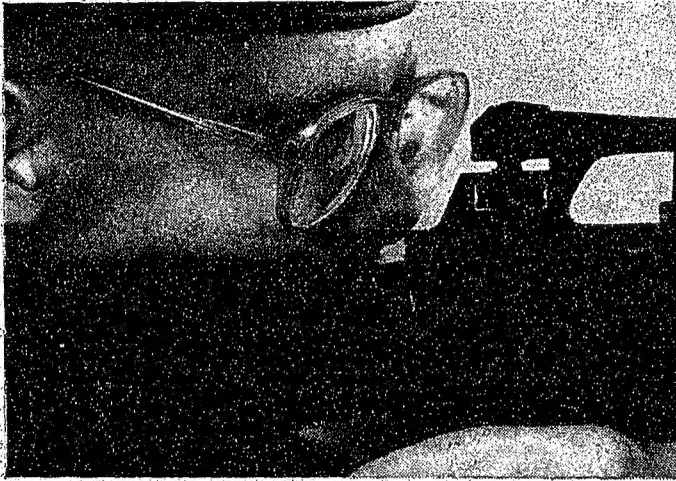
STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAVE WEAVER

To some people "high speed" is a term heard when a state patrolman hands them a ticket. To members of UNO's Ranger Challenge Team, high speed means peak performance. "I thought I was high speed until this weekend," says a tired cadet returning from a Ranger Challenge meet Saturday. "I'm going to start PT (physical training) a lot earlier next year."

The Ranger Challenge is like a track and field event, as points are awarded according to the teams' timed finishes. But events like the grenade toss and marksmanship take the place of the discus and the high jump.

This weekend the Maverick Ranger Team competed against three others from UNL, Creighton and host Kearney State. UNO's battalion finished third behind UNL and Kearney State. Last year, UNO won the day-long competition as a first-time entry.

Like a track meet, the challenge has a 10-kilometer run, but the Ranger Challenge 10K has a few twists. Competitors, with 40-pound backpacks strapped to their backs, carry M-16 rifles and run in combat boots.



Marksmanship was one event during Ranger Challenge.

During the race, teammates are allowed to help each other. At one point, cadets could be seen carrying two or three rifles. In the One-Rope Bridge event, cadets built a 40-foot rope

bridge. Eight cadets had to cross the bridge before tearing it down. The UNO battalion completed the chore in 3 minutes and 5 seconds.

Another event in the Ranger Challenge is the "weapons assembly." An M-60 machine gun and an M-16 rifle are broken down and are mixed in a box. The cadets are timed to reassemble the weaponry.

"We had the youngest team here," said team leader Cadet Chris "Slug" Martin.

The majority of the team agreed they weren't prepared for the 10-kilometer run.

"We just never ran in boots," said Cadet Mike Irvin.

Irvin said preparation for next year's challenge will include running in boots.

Martin said UNO's young battalion will learn from their mistakes, and return next year in an attempt to copy 1988's results.

"We didn't have too many cadets return from last year's team," Martin said, "Next year these guys will know what to expect."



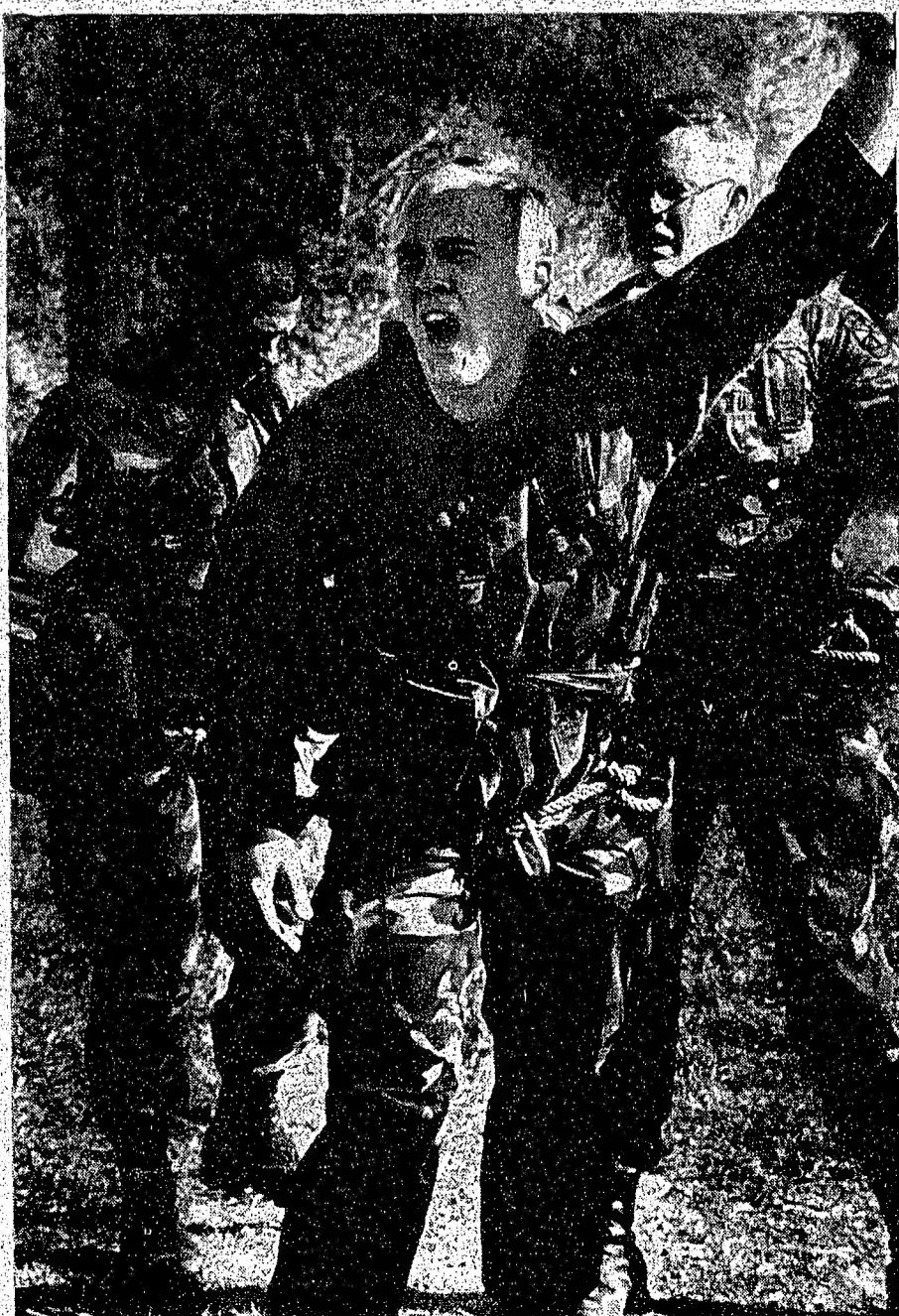
Cadet Paul Prewitt (left) rests in the sun Saturday before the 10-kilometer run.



As a UNO cadet (above) attempts to get off the rope in the One-Rope Bridge event, he is hit in the face accidentally.



Cadets Mike Irvin (left) and Chuck Arnold help their teammates by carrying their rifles during the 10-kilometer run.



Cadet Chuck Arnold (right) cheers on a teammate crossing their "bridge," in the One-Rope Bridge event.



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UNO downs Division II champ 27-7

Buda: Upset catapults Mavs back in time

By TONY FLOTT

The UNO football team stepped back to the future Saturday night, downing defending national champion North Dakota State 27-7.

"I really believe that tonight our program turned the corner to the street it used to be on from '78 to '84," UNO Coach Sandy Buda said.

From 1978 to 1984, UNO won two North Central Conference titles and made two play-off appearances.

Directing UNO's return to championship form was quarterback Paul Cech. Cech led a no-huddle offense, which UNO used to counter the Bison's substituting defense.

The Mavs opened the game with the no-huddle look and scored on their first possession with a 20-yard John Bonacci field goal.

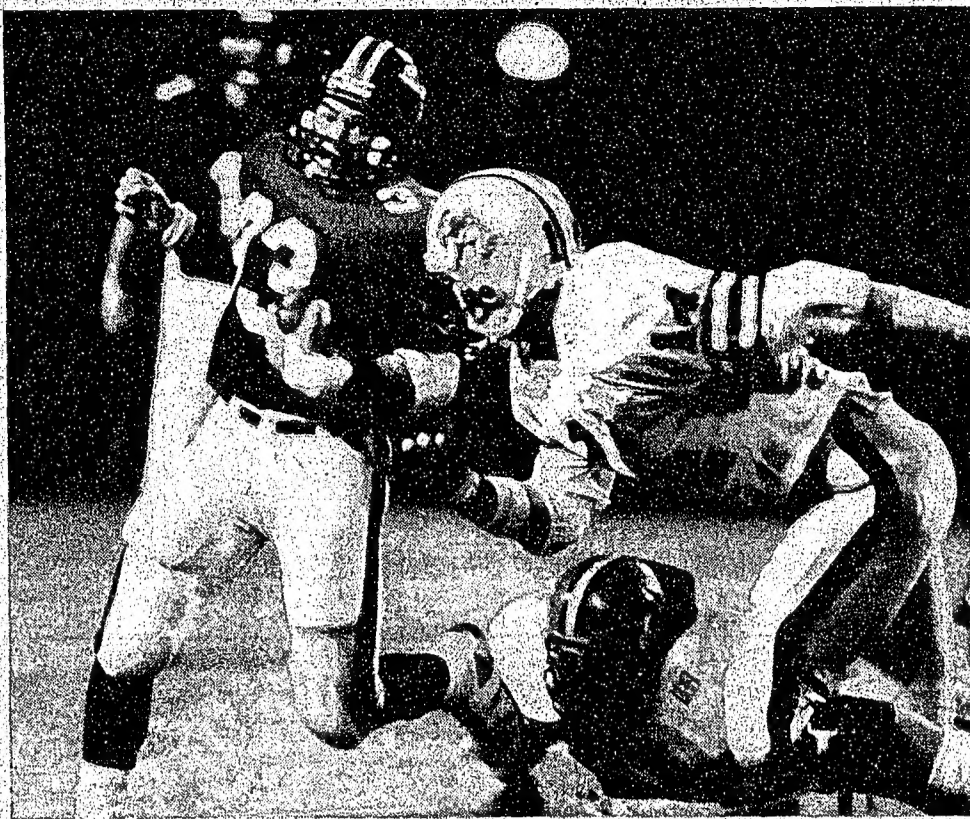
"Our offense really kept North Dakota State off balance and kept our defense off the field," Buda said. "We said we had to do that. We said that would be one of the keys to the ball game."

UNO held possession for more than 18 minutes each half, keeping the ball away from a Bison offense that was averaging 345 yards rushing.

The Mavs entered the game as the NCC's top-ranked rushing defense and held the Bison to only 207 total yards.

"You have to credit Coach Mueller (defensive coordinator) on some of the defenses we were running," defensive lineman Dan Williams said. "I don't think they were prepared for it. We didn't show much of that this year, and they were a little indecisive."

UNO's offense balanced 177 yards rush-



Maverick sophomore running back Bruce Martens (No. 33) thunders through the Herd.

ing with 149 passing en route to their biggest victory margin of the year.

"Based on the last two weeks, based on our youth, people better look at us as the team of the future," Buda said.

After Bonacci's field goal, the Mavs scored two more times in the first half. Abel Fernandez plunged into the end zone for a 1-yard score and Cech tossed a 17-yard pass to

receiver William Thomas.

The Bison entered the locker room in a 17-0 hole.

"They're a good team, but I don't know how good they are as far as coming back from behind," Williams said. "They don't have an explosive offense. They just try to wear you down four or five yards a shot."

After halftime, however, the Bison ap-

peared ready to ruin the last home game for UNO's ten seniors.

After shutting down the Mavs first possession, North Dakota State took only seven plays to march 50 yards for a score.

Quarterback Chris Simdon, the NCC's top rusher, slithered into the end zone from seven yards out, cutting UNO's lead to 17-7.

"We were concerned," Buda said. "At 17-7 it's no longer out of reach."

The Bison had another scoring opportunity after driving to UNO's 21-yard line. However, the Mavs stuffed the drive and scored on their ensuing possession.

A 2-yard run by Abel Fernandez gave UNO a 24-7 lead, eating 8:35 off the clock.

"We physically handled them up front," center Jim Olafson said. "We ran the ball right at them, and there was really no way they were going to stop us."

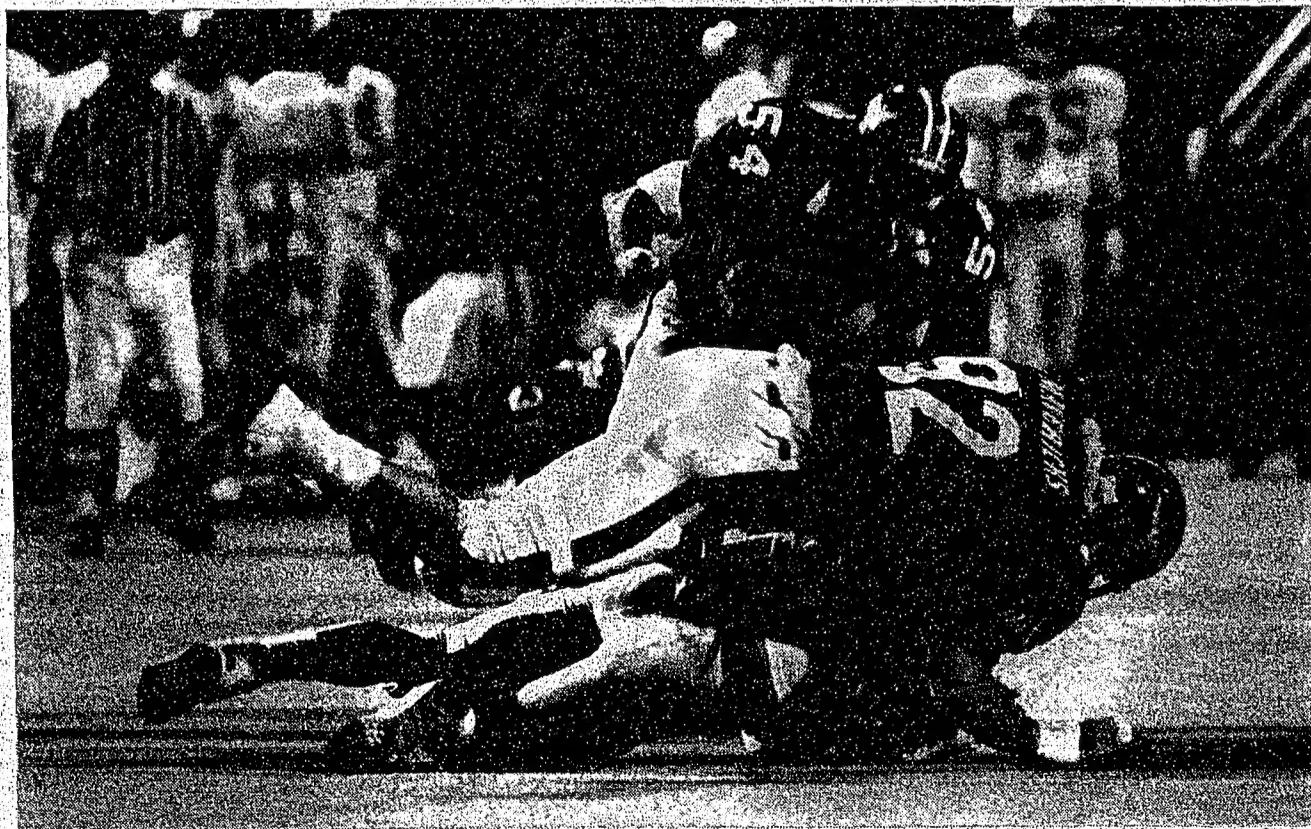
Bonacci added a 32-yard field goal to close out the scoring.

The Mavericks will take on South Dakota State next Saturday in an attempt to finish the season with a three-game winning streak.

"I warned the players that we've got to enjoy it tonight, look at film tomorrow, and Monday we're going to finish 7-4," Buda said.

Olafson said the game will be of special importance to the seniors.

"Speaking as a senior, this is great but I don't want to lose the last game," Olafson said. "We want to end this in style."



UNO's Dan Williams (No. 92) and Kirk Coleman (No. 54) pound a Bison player into the turf.

— Eric Frances

hand in hand.

UNO's Head Athletic Trainer, Denise Fandel, said despite 25 years of research, it is not clear which surface — artificial or natural — causes more injuries.

"What we're finding is that some knee injuries may be related to genetic structure," Fandel said. "The type of shoes worn can also make a difference."

The question of what type of shoes to wear is a double-edged sword.

Most players want shoes that will give them as much traction possible for quick reaction time. However, for protection against injury, less traction is suggested, even though that will cause more sliding.

UNO supplies Converse turf shoes to its players. They are not required to wear them, and can purchase another brand.

Braces also help prevent some knee injuries, although they can't prevent ones caused by twisting forces, Fandel said.

"We either tape an ankle or wear braces," Buda said. "As far as a knee, there's not much you can do other than the normal strengthening of the knee. Once a knee is injured, we tape knees or use knee braces."

Despite the supposed threat of an increased chance in injuries, UNO's football players have an overwhelming preference for AstroTurf.

Of the 40 players surveyed, 35 said they favored playing on artificial turf rather than natural grass.

Most of the reasons given were that turf "makes you feel faster," or that "you have better traction."

Offensive lineman Alex McCoy is one player who favors turf.

"It gives you a lot better footing, and you're not out there worrying about slipping," McCoy said.

Freshman outside linebacker Mark Ringsdorf, however, would rather take his chance with grass.

"There seems to be less injuries with grass," Ringsdorf said. "I've always played on it before I came here, and it just feels softer."

As far as wins and losses, Buda, who has a 55-11 record on UNO's artificial turf, definitely has a preference.

"Historically, we've been very good on turf and poor on grass," Buda said.

"It would be nice if we were in a Florida climate and just had grass, but we don't. So given conditions and our problems of space, for the whole university, turf is the only way for us to go."

Fake grass growing fast

By TONY FLOTT

For some people, the term "sand-lot football" brings back fond memories of dirty, grass-stained clothes and trampled lawns.

Nowadays, however, "parking-lot football" may seem more appropriate, as today's kids face the prospect of playing on artificial turf.

Or AstroTurf.

The name evokes images of a game becoming more modernized, moving away from its romantic roots of the Galloping Ghost and "Win one for the Gipper."

The "time's, they are a-changin'."

The first sign of change was in 1966, when the Astrodome

laid down the first "carpet."

"Like everybody, you wondered what it would be like," UNO Coach Sandy Buda said. "At that time people were more concerned about turf-burns than how hard it was."

Since the first artificial field was installed, 86 out of 191 Division I schools have put in "fake grass."

Nov. 17, 1973, UNO joined the horde of schools installing the new wonder of technology. The first game played on turf was Al Caniglia's last as head coach. The change signaled the end of one era and the start of a new one.

The change has not been met without some resistance. Many people associate artificial turf with knee injuries.

However, knee injuries and turf do not automatically go

Mavs left in the dust, but coach foresees faster future

BY DAMON GRAN

UNO Cross Country Coach Tim Hendricks said he is satisfied with the Lady Mavs season, despite a disappointing final performance.

The Lady Mavs finished seventh in the conference and ninth in the region at the North Central Conference/NCAA Regional Championship at Tranquility Park Saturday.

"We were a very young team this year and can only get better next year," Hendricks said.

The Lady Mavs fielded three juniors and five freshmen this season.

The Air Force Academy won the team competition, with Jill Wood taking individual honors in a course record 17 minutes, 47 seconds.

UNO's top runner, freshman Barb Keefover, finished 18th overall.

Keefover said she saw a steady improvement in her first-year performance. The freshman from Martell, Neb. recorded one meet victory and four top-ten finishes this season.

"I felt much better going into this race, as compared to our invitational when I didn't know the competition," she said.

Keefover ran the hilly, five-kilometer (3.1 mile) course in 19 minutes, 45 seconds, narrowly missing a spot in the Nov. 18 nationals in East Stroudsburg, Pa.

The top two teams and top three individuals will compete in the nationals.

Keefover said she started the race too fast.

"The first hill was easy for me, but as the race went on I felt my quick start catch up to me," Keefover said.

The 50-degree temperatures were ideal for running, Hendricks said.

"The wind wasn't really a factor, but all runners love to run in cool weather like this," Hendricks said. "This contributes to the faster finishing times we had."

UNO's No. 2 runner, Cindy Andrew, finished 47th overall

at 21:18. She said her first year of college competition forced her into some difficult adjustments.

"When you are use to winning all the time in high school, and then finishing in the middle of the pack in college, it takes a little getting use to," Andrew said.

Hendricks said the future looks good for UNO cross country.

"We also have some top recruits coming next year which should help the program a lot," Hendricks said. "I feel the women's cross country program has evolved well in the last few years and can only get better."

BIG MAX ON CAMPUS

By Bob Atherton



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Ecology Now hopes to curb 'environmental racism'

BY LISA STANKUS

Can a group of college students save the planet? A university-based organization called Ecology Now thinks it can.

Ecology Now is dedicated to increasing awareness of environmental issues and how they will affect Americans' lifestyles.

Michael Brandon, co-director and one of the local initiators of the organization, said he feels a combined effort on the collegiate level can make a difference to the ecology of the planet.

"The people that are on the university level now will be our leaders and decision-makers soon," Brandon said. "We need to make them understand a responsibility to our environment so that maybe they can make a difference later on."

Ecology Now started as a student-based organization at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and has since expanded to include the current UNO chapter with Kearney State College to join soon.

"We hope to spread Ecology Now to campuses across the

country. If we unite under one name it will make a stronger structure overall. This will also encourage networking between many campuses and make a nationwide appeal," Brandon said.

Members of the organization plan to raise awareness through petition drives, benefit concerts and informational meetings, but Brandon said one of their primary focuses will be to emphasize the importance of recycling.

By encouraging the recycling of aluminum, glass, paper and plastic, Brandon said society can significantly decrease negative effects that production and destruction of the items have on the environment.

On the local front, Ecology Now plans to work with other ecology groups to confront issues facing Omaha.

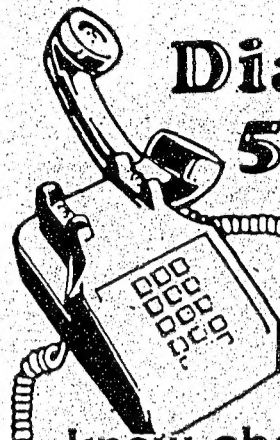
Brandon said there is an "environmental racism" happening, meaning that the larger corporations are using smaller communities as outlets for toxic waste disposal sites.

"Big businesses pick the small cities desperate for income and promise them an increase of jobs and income and a big boost for their economy. Nebraska is guilty for falling for that,

and that has to stop," Brandon said.

Ecology Now is in the process of forming standing committees to more adequately canvass the community. A speaker's committee will arrange to have speakers present at appropriate events. An action committee will be responsible for initiating petitions and letter-writing campaigns, and a recycling committee will be in charge of promoting efficient recycling.

The organization meets every Sunday at 4 p.m. in the Student Center Council Room.



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